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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of our forebears, You have been our refuge in every generation. Do not forsake us during these challenging days. Lord, enlighten our lawmakers so that they will be led by Your spirit, as they trust You to guide them with Your loving providence. Give them the wisdom to walk on the road beaten hard by the footsteps of saints, apostles, prophets, and martyrs. May they not forget the glorious heritage You have prepared for those who love You. Strengthen them, O God, with Your mighty arms, enabling them to serve Your purpose for their lives in this generation.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 19, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COWAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following the leader remarks of myself and Senator MCCONNELL the Senate will be in morning business for an hour. The Republicans will control the first half, the majority the final half. Following that morning business the Senate will resume consideration of the immigration bill.

We have in order a number of amendments that are now pending. I would hope the managers of this bill will work to get time agreements set for these amendments and we will work out a time to do these as quickly as we can. But if we have to have an agreement to move forward on these amendments—and I would suggest I do not want and I do not think we should have to move to table any of the amendments or anything like that; I think we should be able to have votes on these—I look forward to the managers working out a time agreement on these amendments so we can move forward and move on to something else on this bill as quickly as possible.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the life of a young woman by the name of Roxanna began as an immigration success story. Her parents came from Cuba in the 1950s, and they raised their daughter to

appreciate the freedoms and opportunities available to her. That was because she was born in the United States. Roxanna was born in the United States. She is an American citizen.

She wrote to me last month. Here is what she said:

I am proud to say that this country has always been my home.

But when she met her husband Genaro, she saw a different side of the American immigration system. He came to the United States 15 years ago, and he did not have proper documentation, proper paperwork.

He left Mexico for the same reasons Roxanna's parents left Cuba—to try, to try really hard to build a better life. He worked tremendously long hours when he got here, doing odd jobs for not very much—a few dollars a day, to be honest.

Then he moved to Nevada, got a job doing construction, did a little better, and there he did real well because he met Roxanna.

They married in 2003 and soon petitioned to have his undocumented status changed, adjusted. Although they initially received a letter from immigration officials that gave them hope, they have lived in limbo now for 10 years. Because he is undocumented, he worries every day of being arrested and deported—every day—and he has nightmares every night that he will be separated from the love of his life, his American wife.

This is what she wrote to me in addition to what I have recited earlier:

We pay our taxes. . . . We have never caused any harm to anyone or been in trouble with the law. We don't stand on corners asking for money. We work very hard to make ends meet. . . . We have friends and family here that we love and [who] love us. Yet [we] still feel like [we're] not wanted here.

Genaro is one of 11 million people living in America without proper documentation. Many of those 11 million are the parents, siblings, or spouses of U.S. citizens. Some of them overstayed

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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